

Purple: Topic Sentence

KEYS to a strong paragraph

Green: Explanations with well embedded textual evidence

Black: Summary-this should be at a minimum ( if you note too much of this- please revise)

Blue: Analysis of the author- this answers why the textual evidence is important, what it connects to, and provides original thoughts (not plot summary)

Transitions: Provide ongoing connections between thoughts and grammatical structures in your paragraph

Red: Closing sentence- provides a clincher or coherent closing to your paragraph and also helps extend your thoughts into the next paragraph

Possible starters for your topic sentence:

1. While the conflict and outcome in “Just Lather, That’s All” and “One of These Days” is similar, the stories differ in the authors’ use of bloody visual images and attention to detailed descriptions.
2. Both Alvarez and Maxwell approach delicate situations involving their characters with subtle clues and vivid images.

Think about . . .

The “how”(use of distinguishing literary features) and explain how it helps develop the “why” (author’s purpose).

While the conflict and outcome in “Just Lather, That’s All” and “One of These Days” is similar, the stories differ in the authors’ use of bloody visual images and attention to detailed descriptions. Tellez heightens the tension and drama between the barber and Torres with visuals of streaming blood “like a little scarlet stream.” Meanwhile, Marquez carefully describes the “basin of sterilized instruments” and “pair of cold tweezers” in order to create the nervousness and tension leading up to the tooth pull. The stark image of a “gush of blood [sprouting] onto the sheet” underneath the “glistening knife” in “Just Lather” serves the same purpose as the detailed “crunch of bones in his jaws” and the “sweating” and “panting” portrayed in “One of These Days.” Both imagery and detailed description give the stories the kind of tense internal and external conflict needed to create the rising action and the intense, brutal tone found in both pieces. Ultimately both stories rely heavily on creating this tension so that the endings provide a sense of relief and irony.

**Strong Paragraph Writing**

\* Keep this sheet as a reference for future writing